

Keep Georgia Moving!

The Newsletter of the Georgia Statewide Transportation Plan

Volume I, Number 2



Planning Georgia's 25-Year Transportation Future

What's Happened So Far?

In May, regional planning forums were held at 12 locations across the state.

Statewide Transportation Plan Public Forums

May 8	Athens and Blairsville
May 9	Columbus and Thomaston
May 11	Atlanta and Cartersville
May 15	Savannah and Waycross
May 16	Augusta and Dublin
May 18	Macon and Albany

Approximately 250 citizens and public officials attended the meetings. Full meeting minutes are posted on the project's web site. At the meetings, the project team presented a review of how the state has done in meeting the goals of the current Statewide Plan. These goals are as follows. Do you think these are still appropriate goals for the new plan? Let us know what you think!

- Preserve existing facilities;
- Provide a safe system with adequate capacity;
- Assure mobility equity;

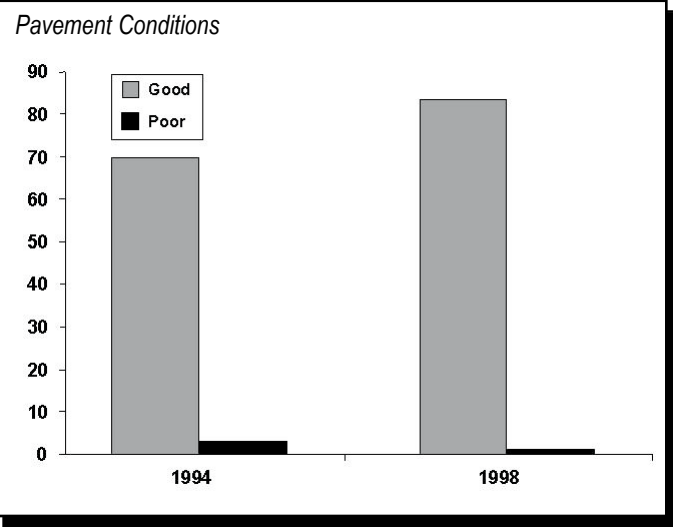
- Give environmental concerns consideration;
- Encourage economic development;
- Coordinate with other state and federal programs;
- Assure adequate funding; and
- Ensure public accountability.

Some of the most frequently heard comments at the meetings were as follows:

- Georgia has an excellent road system, but north-south corridors need more attention;
- The adequacy of the fuel tax as the primary means of financing transportation needs to be assessed;
- Transportation and land use planning need to be linked;
- The benefits and burdens of the transportation system need to be equitably distributed;
- More emphasis should be placed on multimodal projects, including public transit in both urban and rural areas, and pedestrian and bike facilities;
- Transportation investment should support economic development, particularly in rural areas; and
- The role of truck transportation needs to be assessed.

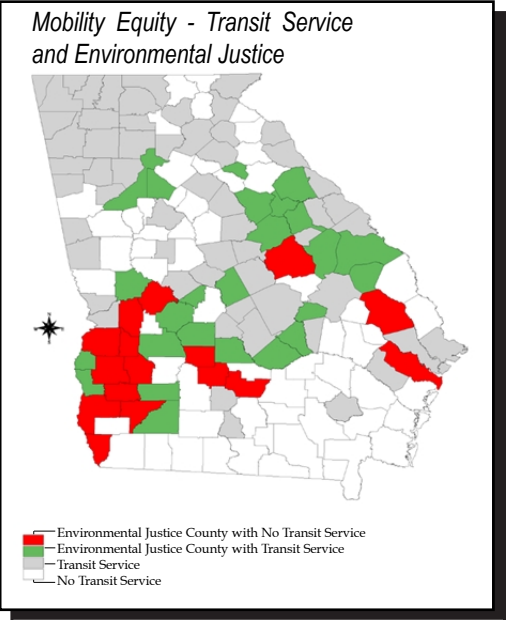
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SOME OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS.
THE COMPLETE PRESENTATION IS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE
OR CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PROJECT CONTACTS.

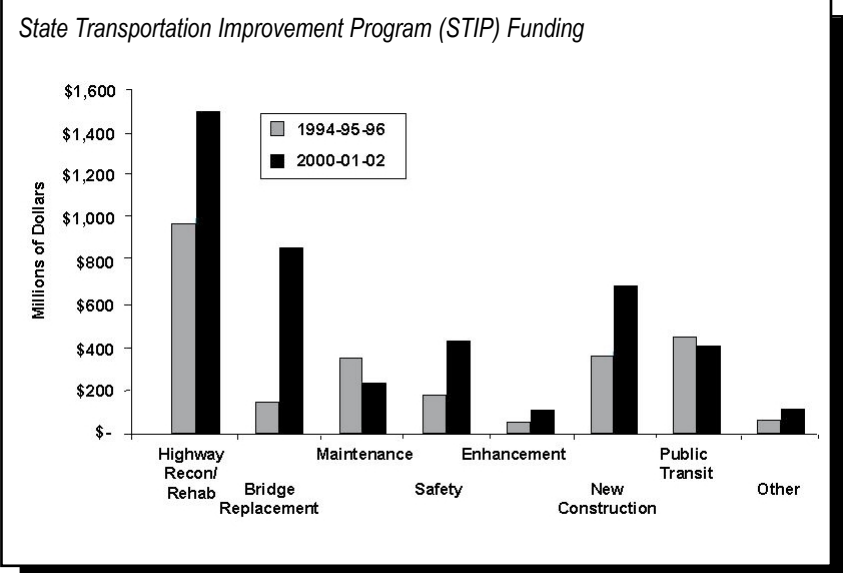
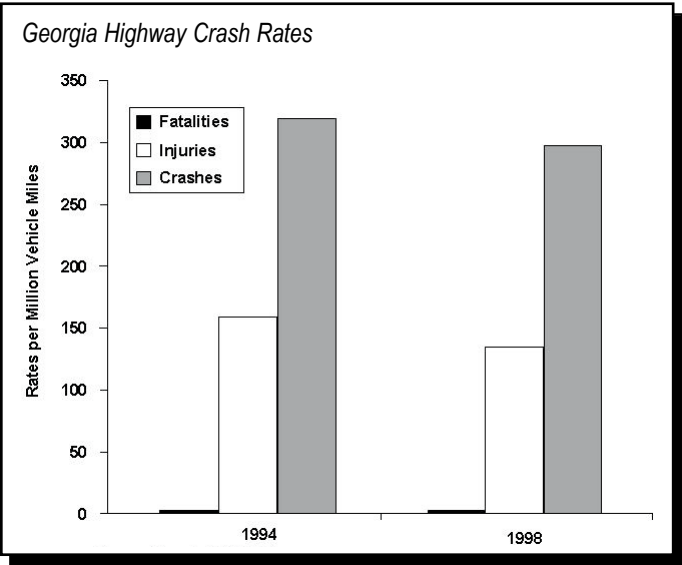


The transportation system is generally in good physical condition and getting better.

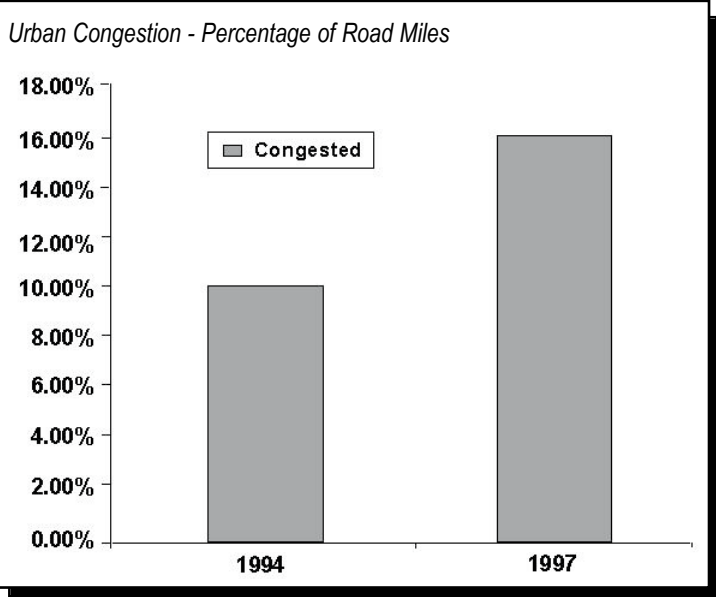
Public transportation service is expanding into counties with large low income and minority populations, but more needs to be done.



The transportation system is becoming safer.



State funding for transportation has increased by 67% in five years, mainly in highway reconstruction, bridge replacement, safety, enhancement, and new construction.



The transportation system is becoming more congested as growth outpaces system expansion.

GDOT has undertaken 316 transportation enhancement projects at a cost of almost \$170 million.

Transportation Enhancement Projects

By Category:	
Facilities for Bicycles and Pedestrians	181
Landscape and Scenic Beautification	148
Rehab and Operation of Historic Transportation Facilities	64
Historic Preservation	60
Tourist and Welcome Center Facilities	20
Preservation and Conversion of Railroad Corridors	14
Safety and Education Programs for Bicycles and Pedestrians	13
Scenic Byway Program	10
Mitigation of Water Pollution Due to Runoff	7
Acquisition of Scenic Easements and Site	6
Acquisition of Historic Sites	6
Archaeological Planning and Rescue	5
Transportation Museums	5
Mitigation to Reduce Wildlife Mortality	1
Total	316
Funding	\$168,932,993

Note: Many projects are classified under more than one category so the sum of the categories is greater than the number of total projects.

Why Should You Care?

- ◆ *New and expanding businesses depend on a well planned transportation system.*
- ◆ *High transportation costs result in higher prices at your stores.*
- ◆ *Traffic congestion makes for much longer trips.*
- ◆ *If you don't or can't drive, alternative ways to travel are important.*
- ◆ *Improving the quality of the air you breathe positively impacts your health.*

What's Next?

The Plan's goal is to involve a diverse cross-section of Georgians in transportation planning for the next 25 years. A stakeholder's meeting will be held in Atlanta on August 9. As part of this meeting, a focus group on Environmental Justice will be held in the afternoon.

What Can You Do?

- ✓ Look for opportunities to participate in project meetings and other activities.
- ✓ Check out the GDOT WEB sitelink and 800 telephone number for progress reports on the Plan, meeting notices, and accessing the e-mail comment section.
- ✓ Let us know of any public events that may be occurring or publications through which we may provide promotional information on the Statewide Plan.
- ✓ Become a member of our "Family of Partners," those who have indicated that they would like to receive information on a regular basis on all aspects of the Department's transportation planning program.

We are counting on you! Help make this Statewide Transportation Plan the most successful outreach initiative in GDOT's history! Please call, fax or email us if you have any questions or would like additional information. Thank you!

Project Background

Georgia will be receiving up to \$400 million annually in additional federal transportation funding due to the passage of TEA-21. Along with this increased funding comes the opportunity to reexamine how we are addressing the transportation needs of our State's residents, businesses and traveling public. In response to this challenge, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will take a fresh look at how to best meet the transportation needs of the State for the new millennium by updating the **Statewide Transportation Plan**. This will require a major effort to get input from Georgians and to provide them with useful information. This first edition of the project newsletter is an important part of this outreach effort. It will be published quarterly to provide citizens with updates on project activities and directions for getting involved in the project.

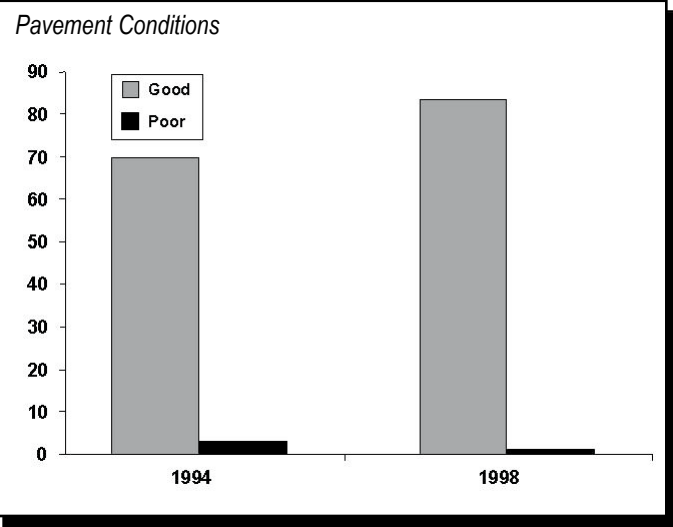
Project Web Site: www.dot.state.ga.us

Project Toll Free Number: 1-888-419-GDOT

**State Transportation
Plan Project Staff:**

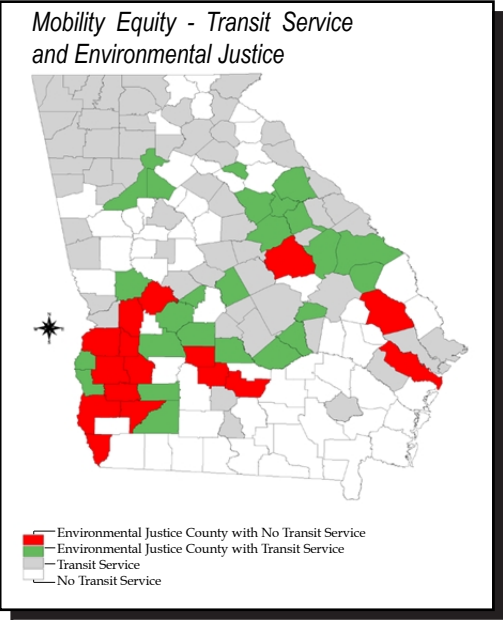
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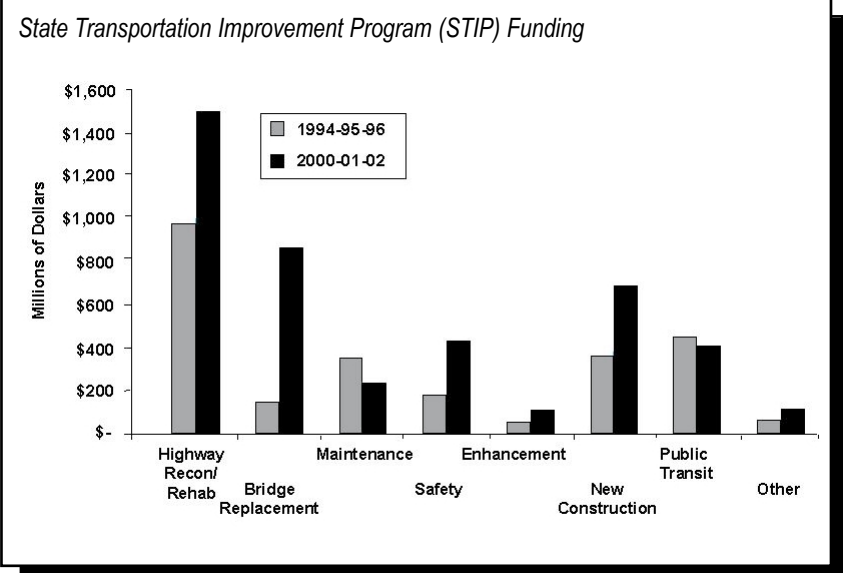
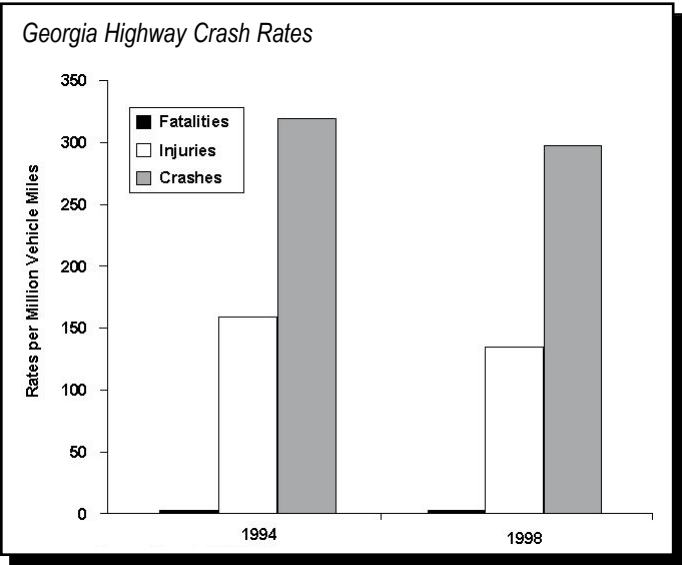


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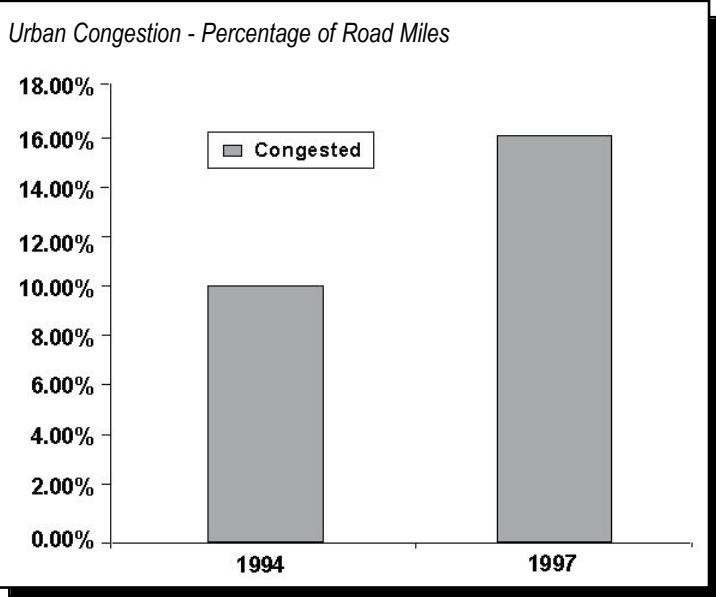
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